

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: SENV, CA, US

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. CANADIAN PRESS HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED A NUMBER OF ARTICLES ON US-CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS SUCH AS MME SAUVE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, GARRISON PROJECT, AND A POSSIBLE REFINERY IN MORRISBURG. END SUMMARY.

2. MME SAUVE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, THIS ITEM HAS RECEIVED MOST COVERAGE. HOTTAWA JOURNAL ON MARCH 31 HEADLINED "SAUVE SCORES SEVERAL POINTS IN US TALKS." ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, MEE SAUVE "HAS WON POINTS ON AT LEAST THREE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES..." THESE WERE ON GREAT LAKES POLLUTION CLEAN-UP, ON REFERRAL OF GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT TO IJC, AND PLAN TO KEEP SUPERTANKERS "AWAY FROM HAZARDOUS WATERS" ON WEST COAST. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SHE ALSO SIGNED A WEATHER AGREEMENT AND PAVED THE WAY FOR MORE EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US ON TRANSBORDER ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

3. GARRISON DIVERSION. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE REFERENCE TO GARRISON PROJECT, LOCAL PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED WIDELY PROBABLE REFERENCE OF PROJECT TO THE IJC AND OPPOSITION

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TO THE PROJECT ALLEGEDLY VOICED BY CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM S

MOORHEAD.

4. OTTAWA PRESS HAS PUBLISHED ITEM ENTITLED "HUGE REFINERY FOR MORRISBURG." APPARENTLY, BUILDING PERMITS HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO IDA OIL BARGE LTD., A TEXAS-BASED COMPANY, TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERY JUST WEST OF MORRISBURG, ONTARIO.

5. COMMENT. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 4, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT REFINERY WILL BE VERY CLOSE TO US BORDER AND COULD HAVE A CROSS-BORDER EFFECT. IN ALL ITEMS CITED ABOVE HOWEVER, PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN USUAL PRO-CANADIAN WAY. EMBASSY WILL BE INTERESTED TO LEARN DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS OF DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED ABOVE.

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